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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 040302-0278

#11/ISS
4/26/03
O'Brien

Applicant: Isamu HOTTA et al.

Title: EXHAUST EMISSION CONTROL DEVICE OF INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE

- Appl. No.: 09/974,878

Filing Date: 10/12/2001

Examiner: D. T. Tran

Art Unit: 3748

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

11/26/2003 JELLIOTT 00000005 190741 09974878

UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

01 FC:1806

180.00 DA

Commissioner for Patents

PO Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(d), before payment of the issue fee.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

Documents A1-A5, A7 and A8 listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 was cited as being relevant during the prosecution of the corresponding European application. A copy of the European Search Report is attached setting forth the portion of each document considered relevant by the examiner. Documents A1-A4, A7 and A8 are in English. An English translation of the foreign-language document, A5, is not readily available; however, document A6 is cited as an English language version of document A5.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

STATEMENT

The undersigned hereby states in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to filing of this Statement.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

November 19, 2003
Date

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| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--|----------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | T ⁶ |
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Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO:** Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.